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11 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Northern Rockies dispatch system is to provide safe, cost effective mobilization of emergency incident resources and to promote efficient operations through interagency cooperation and standardized procedures.

11.1 TOTAL MOBILITY

Cooperating agency administrators, through their respective fire chiefs as identified in section 32.1 of this guide, have delegated authority to the Northern Rockies Coordinator to move resources throughout the Northern Rockies Geographic Area and between other National Geographic Areas to accomplish the mission of the Northern Rockies dispatch system. Resources are mobilized to meet existing and anticipated needs for preparedness, severity, wildland, and prescribed fire needs. Resources may also be mobilized in support of non-wildfire emergencies in a manner consistent with the providing agency's mission and management objectives.

The Northern Rockies Coordinator will:

- A. dispatch personnel, equipment, aircraft, and supplies to and from emergency incidents, between administrative units, between dispatch zones, and between participating agencies.
- B. maintain availability status on the number and location of specified personnel, equipment, aircraft, transportation and supplies.
- C. determine Geographic Area priorities for personnel, equipment, aircraft, and supplies in multiple wildland fire situations. Fill resource requests according to priorities.
- D. keep all agency administrators and the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) informed of current fire potential and any critical fire situations.
- E. provide a fire intelligence center for the Geographic Area. Collect, distribute, and post information concerning the national/Area fire situation; including fire danger, number of fires, fire location, area burned, resources committed, and any special conditions that warrant distribution.
- F. encourage and practice close cooperation in the sharing of resources with other geographic areas and between protection agencies.

11.2 PRIORITIES

The Northern Rockies Coordinator establishes incident priorities until a Multi-agency Coordinating Group (MAC) is activated. Incident priorities will be set according to National and Geographic Area priority criteria regardless of agency.

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide**.

12 SCOPE OF OPERATION

12.1 GENERAL

The Northern Rockies Interagency Mobilization Guide contains dispatching procedures and organizational structure. Included in the Guide are a telephone directory and various catalogs of teams, personnel, equipment, aircraft and supplies. Organizational units (Forests, Districts, Parks, Land Offices, Field Offices, etc.) will maintain and supplement the Northern Rockies Interagency Mobilization Guide through their local/zone dispatch center by inserting local/zone mobilization procedures at the end of each corresponding chapter.

12.1.1 NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN (NRP)

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide**.

12.1.2 OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide**.

12.2 DISASTER AND EMERGENCY PLANS

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - Direction for disasters and emergency situations falls under the Superintendent's (line officer) responsibility for BIA Agencies (Reservations). The Emergency Firefighter (EFF) Pay Plan will be implemented to hire additional forces, for assistance, whenever necessary to combat natural disasters.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - Direction for disasters and emergency situations falls under the State Director on Bureau lands.

FOREST SERVICE - Policy and direction for disasters and emergency situations can be found in FSM 1590. The Northern Region Disaster and Emergency Plan contains Region 1 objectives to (1) render authorized, timely physical assistance whenever necessary for the immediate protection of life and property, (2) provide an orderly means for coordinating Forest Service efforts with those of other agencies engaged in disaster relief, and (3) provide assistance to State and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities for alleviating suffering and damage resulting from major disasters and emergencies.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS - Reference the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan, Emergency Support Function #4, Fire Fighting Annex.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION – Policy and direction for wildfire emergencies is established by the director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Authority to implement policy is delegated to the Division of Forestry, Fire and Aviation Management Bureau and the field offices of the Forestry and Trust Land Management Divisions. Policy and direction for non-fire disasters and emergencies is established through the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division of the Department of Military Affairs.

Reference Montana Disaster and Emergency Plan.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - Disaster and emergency operations are the responsibility of the Park Superintendent and usually delegated to the Chief Park Ranger. Priority is life and safety of (1) employees, (2) victims, and (3) saving of personal or government property. The Emergency Firefighter (EFF) Pay Plan can be implemented for hiring necessary personnel for searches, rescues, or natural disasters. National Park Service has administrative and legislated authority and responsibility to assist other local non-federal agencies in the times of natural, civil, or fire emergencies.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE FOREST SERVICE & DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Reference the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan, Coordination & Control Annex, appendix E-E1: "Procedures for Coordinating Rural Fire Suppression/Mitigation Measures".

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE - Disaster and emergency operations are the responsibility of the Refuge Manager.

13 MOBILIZATION / DEMOBILIZATION

The Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) will coordinate through NICC the movement of all national shared resources.

The monitoring of crew, overhead and support personnel fatigue to assure safe, productive fire suppression and management activity is a basic responsibility of fire management personnel. Use the guidelines in the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook (NWCG Handbook 2) to assure adequate rest for fire suppression crews, overhead and support personnel. Work/rest guidelines and assignment length are specified in chapter 13.1 of the National Mobilization Guide. The standard work : rest ratio is a minimum of 1 hour of rest for 2 hours work. The standard incident assignment length is 14 days exclusive of travel from and to home unit. If at all possible, avoid the use of on site R&R (rest and recuperation).

13.1 WORK/REST, LENGTH OF ASSIGNMENT, AND DAYS OFF

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide**.

13.2 INCIDENT OPERATIONS DRIVING

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide**.

13.3 INITIAL ATTACK DEFINITION

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide**.

NRCC may order initial attack airtankers, lead planes, and aerial supervision modules (ASM) from neighboring Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs). These requests will be followed up with a phone call to notify NICC and a formal request in ROSS.

Where local agreements are in place, Northern Rockies dispatch centers have the authority to utilize the Initial Attack resources of adjoining units and centers across adjacent Geographic Area boundaries. These requests will be followed up with a courtesy phone call notifying NRCC. At the time it becomes evident that the incident will not be contained during the first operational period, resources involved will be formally ordered through ROSS.

13.4 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Unit identifiers have been established for all the wildland protection organizational units in the Northern Rockies. A complete list can be found at http://www.nifc.blm.gov/nsdu/unit_id/Publish.html. These unit identifiers will be incorporated into the incident order number used in block 3 of the Resource Order form.

The Unit Identifier in the incident project order number should identify the unit/agency having land ownership, or wildfire protection responsibility if defined by fire protection agreements.

Requests for resources will only be accepted from recognized agents of agencies with protection responsibilities within the scope of existing agreements and memorandums of understanding. Resource orders will be maintained on a calendar year basis. No incident / project order number will be duplicated within a calendar year.

13.5 NATIONAL RESOURCES

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide**.

13.6 NOTIFICATION OF COMMITMENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCES

Use of national resources during their nationally funded period for wildland fire use monitoring or assignment to prescribed fires will require prior approval by the Northern Rockies Coordinator.

Units with assigned national resources will notify the NRCC with a “COMMIT” message via DMS within 15 minutes when these resources' availability changes.

13.7 UNABLE TO FILL (UTF) PROCEDURE

Confirmation that a resource order can be filled must take place within 30 minutes of receipt of the resource order by the receiving dispatcher. If time permits, the filling organization may request additional time to locate a resource.

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide** for the National UTF Policy.

13.8 STANDARD CUBES, WEIGHT AND GEAR POLICY FOR ALL PERSONNEL (EXCLUDING SMOKEJUMPERS, RAPPELLERS, AND HELICOPTER MANAGERS; Refer to Chapter 62.4 and the National Mobilization Guide.)

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide**.

13.9 STRIKE TEAMS/TASK FORCES

Ordering organizations are required to order suppression forces as single resources on individual requests rather than as Strike Teams. The individual resources may then be organized as a Strike Team or Task Force as required by the incident.

Reference the **National Mobilization Guide**.

13.10 WILDLAND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS

The National Weather Service will post morning wildland fire weather forecasts, afternoon updates, wildland fire weather watches, and red flag warnings as specified in their annual operating plan. All dispatch/coordination centers and unit dispatchers are responsible for communicating wildland fire weather information in a timely manner to firefighters and incident management personnel at initial attack bases, staging areas, field locations and to firefighters on all wildland fires.

13.11 FIRE BEHAVIOR

During periods of high fire activity (Preparedness Levels 3-5), general wildland fire behavior information will be distributed to dispatch centers through the Fire Behavior Service Center established at the NRCC (see the AFD-ISO plan). Dispatch centers will disseminate this information to firefighting personnel. If the Geographic Area Fire Behavior Service Center is not operational, local agency administrators will distribute wildland fire behavior information as deemed necessary.